

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 29–66

29. A self-blunting needle device comprising:

an external component comprising a cannula member and an external component hub, wherein the cannula member comprises a through-bore, a tip, and a mounting end;

an internal component comprising an elongate member having a tip, wherein the elongate member is disposed within the through-bore of the cannula member, and wherein the external component and the internal component are movable relative to each other between a sharpened configuration and a blunting configuration;

a guide surface leading axially towards the through-bore of the cannula member, wherein the guide surface is positioned and configured to guide the elongate member into the through-bore of the cannula member in the assembly of the device; and

a detent and groove engagement between the external component and the internal component configured to inhibit movement from the blunting configuration to the sharpened configuration.

30. The device of claim 29, wherein the guide surface converges axially from a first entry aperture larger than the through-bore to a first gate aperture not larger than the through-bore, wherein the first gate aperture is aligned with the through-bore.

31. The device of claim 29, wherein the guide surface comprises a non-convergent surface that defines a groove that is positioned and configured to guide the elongate member into the through-bore of the cannula member.

32. The device of claim 30, wherein the cannula member defines a longitudinal axis, at least a portion of the guide surface defines an angle α relative to the cannula member axis, and the angle α has a magnitude in the range of from about 5 to 75 degrees.

33. The device of claims 29 comprising a guide member disposed at the mounting end of the cannula member, wherein the guide member defines the guide surface.

34. The device of claim 33, wherein the guide member is disposed within the external component hub.

35. The device of claim 33, wherein the guide member is integrally formed as part of the external component hub.